



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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P.N.E.U. NOTES.

Edited by Miss FRANCES BLOGG, Sec., 28, Victoria Street, S.W.
To whom Hon. Local Secs. are requested to send reports of all matters of interest connected with their branches, also 30 copies of any prospectuses or other papers they may print.

NEW BRANCHES.

The Executive Committee has been approached with a view to starting Branches in the following places:—

HARROW.
BRADFORD.
MANCHESTER.
CHICHESTER.
EALING.
HIGHGATE.
COLCHESTER.—Hon. Sec., *pro tem.*, Mrs. Powell, Great Bentley Vicarage.

NOTTINGHAM.
BLACKHEATH.
CROYDON.
STREATHAM.
WEST HAMPSTEAD.

Readers of the *Parents' Review* living in these districts, or having friends there, are asked to communicate with Miss Blogg.

The Library Committee beg to acknowledge, with many thanks, the gift of the following books by their authors:—

"The Starry Skies," and "Among the Stars." Miss Agnes Giberne.
"The Training of Girls for Work," and "Primer of Domestic Economy." Miss Barnett.

"The Story of the Chemical Elements." M. M. Pattison Muir, M.A.

Also of the following:—

"Frances Mary Buss" (A. G. Ridley); "Methods of Education in the United States" (Zimmern); "Mothers and Motherhood" (Mrs. G. S. Reaney), from Mr. Perrin; "How to read the Bible" (Adeney), from Miss I'Anson.

BELGRAVIA.—The December lecture was given by Miss Helen Webb, M.B., on "Neurotic Children," at 35, Cranley Gardens (by the kindness of Mrs. Pym), Guy Pym, Esq., M.P., in the chair. On Tuesday, January 19th, the Hon. and Rev. Canon E. Lyttelton has kindly consented to give a lecture to this Branch, on "Mothers and Sons." Classes are being held for children in French (Gouin), Singing (Tonic Sol-Fa), Dancing, Drawing, and Painting; and for adults in Dressmaking, and the practice of Concerted Music. Several other classes are now being arranged, particulars of which may be had from the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Cockburn, 39, Elvaston Place, S.W., who will also be glad to receive the names of new members.

HYDE PARK AND BAYSWATER.—Hon. Sec., Mrs. Franklin, 9, Pembroke Gardens (at home Thursday mornings). On Thursday, December 10th, at 14, Dawson Place (by kind permission of Mrs. Waley), a most delightful and suggestive paper was read by Mrs. Clement Parsons, on

"A Child's Introduction to Poetry." The subject was so skilfully and so sympathetically handled, that the audience felt that they had not only gained a great deal of help from Mrs. Parsons' lecture, but also had enjoyed a literary treat. The chair was taken by Mrs. J. Hobson. The next meeting will be held on January 27th, at 5.30, at 6, Airlie Gardens, Campden Hill (by kind permission of Mrs. Devonshire), when Mad. Duriaux will lecture on "Language Teaching," with illustrations. On February 1st, Mrs. Franklin will lecture to members' nurses on "Habit," at 8.30, at 18, Pembroke Gardens (by kind permission of Mrs. Hart). The lecture is free, but names of nurses should be sent in. On February 15th, W. K. Hill, Esq., B.A. (Author of "Modern Ideals in Education," in *Contemporary Review*, October, 1896), will lecture on "Parental Responsibility for the failure of Modern Education," at 5.30, at 86, Westbourne Terrace (by kind permission of Mrs. Hall), A. C. P. Coote, Esq., M.A., in the chair. A reading circle, free to members, will meet on 2nd and 4th Mondays in each month, commencing February 8th, at 8.30, at 9, Pembroke Gardens. "Home Education" will be read and discussed. Names must be sent in. Particulars of Brush drawing, Sloyd, Basket work, Swedish drill, French (Gouin), Italian (for beginners), can be obtained from Mrs. Franklin, 9, Pembroke Gardens.

HAMPSTEAD AND ST. JOHN'S WOOD.—A meeting was held on Wednesday, December 9th, at 74, Fitzjohn's Avenue (by the kindness of Dr. and Mrs. Pidcock). There was an unusually large attendance of members and friends. Miss Pridham read a very valuable paper on "The Teaching of Mental Arithmetic." In the course of her paper the lecturer shewed how the study of mental arithmetic was well fitted to train children in mental habits of accurate thinking, and love of independent and honest work. The paper concluded with the remark that children early learnt in this subject that "nearly right" will not do. A full report of this helpful paper is to appear immediately in the *Parents' Review*. The chair was taken by Mr. Sonnenschein, whose books on arithmetic are known everywhere. In the course of his remarks the chairman explained how he taught the multiplication table, which the pupil is never allowed to learn by heart until he has built it up entirely for himself. The discussion which followed was joined in with interest by many of those present, among whom were Mr. Nesbitt (who was Mr. Sonnenschein's coadjutor in his books on arithmetic), Miss Franks, Mr. Simmons, Miss Eva Young, and Mr. Swan. Mr. Swan gave an account of the investigations of M. Bétis into the methods used by "calculating boys." A good many names of children wishing to join the Christmas holiday excursions, have been sent in. The first visit will be on Tuesday, January 5th, to the National Gallery. The children will meet there at 10.45 a.m. in the vestibule. On January 12th the excursion will be made to the Natural History Museum, and on January 19th to Westminster Abbey. The fee is one shilling per head for each visit, which will last one hour. The programme of lectures for 1897 is being arranged, and will shortly be sent out to members of this Branch.

WOODFORD AND WANSTEAD.—A business meeting was held on November 25th, at Mrs. Marno's, when the officers were re-elected, and the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were read. Afterwards a

paper, entitled "Family Bickerings," was read from the *Parents' Review*. This Branch is increasing in numbers and interest. A lecture on "Competitive Examination," by Mrs. Hamilton, was given on December 18th, at White House, Snaresbrook (by kind permission of Mrs. Whitaker). CLAPHAM.—The November reading circle was held at Windmill House, Clapham Common (by kind invitation of Mrs. Duke), J. Burgess, Esq., in the chair. The first chapter of Thrington's "Theory and Practice of Teaching" was read and discussed. The December lecture was given by Miss Heaton on "Children's Books," at 20, Cedars Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Bideleux). Mr. Holloway was voted into the chair, in the unavoidable absence of the Rector. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion.

DULWICH.—The last meeting of this session took place on Tuesday, December 1st, at 5 p.m., at Hillsboro', Alleyn Park (by kind permission of Mrs. Mallinson), when Mr. Jackson read a very interesting paper on the "Hygiene of Handwriting." Brush-painting classes are to be given during the Christmas holidays by Miss Yeats. Miss Simpson, of the Yorkshire College, Leeds, will give a lecture to children on January 5th, on "Winter Sleepers."

READING.—In presenting their report for the session 1896, the committee congratulate the Union on the progress and increased activity which have marked the course of this branch. The following lectures have been given:—February 4th: "The faults of children," by Hastings Gilford, Esq., F.R.C.S., at the Abbey Hall; chairman, R. C. Shettle, Esq., M.D.—March 21st: "Natural History Clubs as a means of furthering the Study of Nature," by Mrs. Franklin, at Ascham House; chairman, H. M. Wallis, Esq., J.P.—May 30th: "Memory," by the Rev. W. Hume Campbell, M.A., at Merton House; chairman, the Rev. Canon Beach.—June 27th: "Fine Art and Education," by F. Bate, Esq., at Grove House, Leighton Park; chairman, F. J. Edminton, Esq.—September 26th: "Co-Education," by Miss E. C. Pollard, B.Sc., at 28, Portland Place; chairman, Dr. Eleanor Warner. The average attendance was about 80, and discussions took place after each address. Twenty-one new members have joined during the past year and five have resigned. The total number is now 132. There has been a steady demand for the books in the Lending Library. Nine new books have been bought with the remainder of the grant made in 1894, and the total number now in the library, including the *Parents' Review* for 1895-6, is 70. No new publications have been issued by the branch, and Mrs. Hart Davis' paper on "Family Life" is now sold out. There are still 406 copies of the "Suggestions for the management of young children," by Mr. and Mrs. Hart Davis and Mr. Hastings Gilford, which can be had from the hon. sec. Mr. Gilford was chosen as the representative of the branch on the central executive committee. He has attended one meeting of that body, and has been informed of the business done at all other meetings, but nothing has transpired which directly affects the branches. A natural history club has been formed in accordance with the resolution passed at the fourth annual meeting. The financial statement and balance-sheet shows a balance in hand of about two pounds.—WM. SALMON, *Hon. Sec.*

Natural History Club—Report to September 30th, 1896.—The committee report with pleasure that the work of the club has been carried on by the members with considerable vigour and success. Since its inauguration on February 4th, 1896, the membership has steadily increased to 138, the number of children being 79. The following monthly meetings have been held:—April 14th: Lecture to children, by B. J. Austin, Esq., on "Nature's companionship," at the High School—May 9th: Excursion to Dunsden for field work; address by Mr. Hamm; 62 present.—June 13th: Excursion to Burghfield Common for field work; address by Mr. Leslie; 81 present.—July 25th: Excursion to Streatley Hill for field work; address by Mr. F. Tufnail; 35 present.—August 29th: Excursion to Bucklebury Common for field work; 24 present. The committee acknowledge with gratitude the kindly and generous assistance given by Mr. Hamm, Mr. Leslie, and Mr. Tufnail, in furthering the work of the club. As far as it is possible to make accurate calculation, it is estimated that 67 per cent. of the members are interested in botany and 20 per cent. in entomology. The statement of accounts shows a balance in hand of £1 4s. 11d.—MISS C. E. STRACHAN, *Hon. Sec.*, Eversley, London Road.

EASTBOURNE.—A drawing-room meeting will take place on Thursday, January 7th, when Miss Mason (founder of the Union) has promised to give the address. Particulars will be sent to members in due course, and a limited number of cards of admission for friends may be had on application to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Butt (Ingleside, Selwyn Road). Miss Sturge's lecture on December 2nd was largely attended and greatly appreciated.

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS.—On December 1st a lecture on "Hygiene" was given by Dr. Niven, at Cleveland, Dane Road (by kind permission of Mrs. Murray); chairman, Andrew Murray, Esq. There will be no meeting in January.

LEEDS.—The annual meeting of the Leeds branch of the Parents' National Educational Union was held on November 27th at the rooms of the Yorkshire Ladies' Council of Education, 90, Albion Street, Leeds. Mrs. Gibson (the president) was in the chair, and amongst those present were the Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton, Mrs. Talbot Baines, Mrs. Robert Eddison, Mrs. Francis Steinthal, Mrs. Mayo Robson (hon. treasurer), Mrs. Smithells (hon. secretary), and others. The fourth annual report stated that satisfactory work had been done during the year. A course of natural history lessons was given by Miss Simpson in the spring, and an exhibition was held of natural history objects in July. The balance-sheet showed an income of £33 17s. 9d., and there was a cash balance in hand of £8 8s. 5d. The report and balance-sheet were accepted, and the officers re-elected, with the addition of Mrs. Wicksteed to the committee. The Hon. Mrs. Lyttelton read a paper on "The Home Training of Boys and Girls in their Teens." She said she was an advocate for a greater equality in the treatment of boys and girls than generally prevailed. The physical training of the boys was largely out of their hands, but the games of girls might be improved with advantage. The home life of children was a most important factor in shaping the minds and the currents of thought of their children, and the tone of conversation at home had a great influence

on them. The books read should be carefully selected, and parents ought frequently to inquire of the children the nature of their reading. The home was the place where a girl's judgment could best be trained. Dangerous books should be prohibited to boys and girls alike. She wished to see a little more of the old-fashioned courtesy in the manners of boys and girls, and she did not believe that it was impossible to resuscitate it to-day. Patience and self control should also be inculcated. Boys should be warned of the temptations which lay before them. It was almost incredible that parents allowed their boys to go to schools, where, according to the testimony of schoolmasters, they were certain to meet with an enormous amount of moral evil, without being warned of the danger in front of them. The result of shyness on the part of parents in this respect often caused their boys to carry with them through life the marks of their neglect. She desired a higher ideal of marriage to be set up, and better ideas of love inculcated in the earlier years of life. Marriage should be set before the girl as the highest thing, and something that she was to prepare for. A high ideal of friendship should also be constantly set before girls and boys, as friendship was a great shaping factor in life. [Applause.] The religious teaching was really imparted at home, and not at school, and some sort of religious teaching ought to accompany the home life. It was also very important to prevent brothers and sisters drifting apart, for when this happened, one of the greatest sources of strength was lost. Mothers and daughters did not always get on well together, and a London doctor said that 75 per cent. of the girls brought to him were ill because they could not get on with their mothers. [Laughter.] Mothers should seek to correct the weaknesses of their daughters, but not do so before others. The maintenance of a high ideal of home life was the hope of the future. [Applause.] A discussion followed, and a vote of thanks to Mrs. Lyttelton was carried by acclamation.

SOUTHPORT.—On Tuesday, November 17th, the present session of the Southport branch was inaugurated by a lecture given by Mrs. Miall, at Clive House, by the kind permission of the Rev. H. E. Mocatta. The lecture, entitled "Short Hours *versus* Long Hours," was an eloquent appeal on the part of the lecturer for the diminishing of the hours of instructing children, and a graphic, and on the whole convincing, picture of the benefits to be derived from this lessening of the mental strain incident to protracted teaching. The lecturer held points, however, which provoked much interesting and prolonged discussion.—The next lecture will be upon "The methods of teaching Geography to Children of all ages."

SCARBOROUGH.—On November 18th and 20th, Mrs. Francis Steinthal gave two lectures on Brush Drawing to the members of the Union. With her usual enthusiasm, Mrs. Steinthal inspired her audience to work, and the tables were crowded with ardent students. Sixty-two attended the first lecture. Long before the appointed time, students came for seats in the second lecture (ample room having been arranged), and seventy listened to the skilful way in which the lecturer gave her second model lesson on Brush Drawing and Nature. We owe Mrs. Steinthal a deep debt of gratitude, not only for the lecture proper, but for the way in which she spoke of the many practical helps to be got from membership in the Union.

FOLKESTONE.—Mdlle. Duriaux gave a delightful lecture on November 17th, on "Language Teaching." There was a large attendance, and all were much interested.—The January lecture will be given by Miss Helen Webb, M.B.; and in February, the Head Master of Dover College will address the branch on "The sphere of Home Influence in School Life."

BROUGHTY FERRY.—Professor Steggall (of the Dundee University College), has kindly consented to give two lectures on "Astronomy," with lime-light illustrations, during the Christmas holidays. The first lecture took place on December 30th. The other will be given on January 13th.

EDINBURGH.—A lecture was given at 4, Charlotte Square, by Dr. Gunn, on November 20th, on "Hand and Eye Training." Special emphasis was laid on the close connection of hand and brain, so that education of the hand means education of the brain, and the lecturer pleaded for an extension of the hours given to hand-work in schools. There was a good attendance, and the chair was taken by Dr. Kerr, recently Chief Inspector of Schools for Scotland. A meeting, under the auspices of the Scottish Mothers' Union, was held on December 8th, at 28, Drumsheugh Gardens (by the kindness of Mrs. Ralph Dundas), when Mrs. Mirrlees, of Glasgow, read a paper entitled, "Why is self-discipline essential to Mothers?" The chair was taken by Mrs. Fletcher Saltrenn.

WIMBLEDON.—On Friday, November 27th, an extremely interesting debate was held at Oak Holm, Wimbledon Common. Lady Isabel Margesson moved—"That the Appeal to Authority is an obstacle to Moral Education," and opened the debate with a very earnest speech, pointing out the very real difference between "old" and "new" education—the one aimed at "putting in," the other at "drawing out." With regard to moral education, she said, the principle should be just the same. Moral ideas grow naturally with the child, and our part is simply to watch and tend the growth. Lady Isabel Margesson was opposed by C. D. Olive, Esq., in a speech full of firm conviction, and enlivened by much humorous incident. He maintained that children were really happier and better when ruled with strict, but not capricious authority, that to make the child his own governor was bad for the brain, and conducive to worry, and that it led to a want of reverence. Other members spoke, and, after Lady Isabel Margesson had made her answering speech, the votes were taken, showing a large majority against the motion. The meeting was very well attended.—Classes are being arranged for the Christmas holidays in Carpentering, for boys from 6 to 16 years of age. There is to be a senior and a junior class.

WALLASEY.—An intensely interesting paper by Miss Sturge was read on the 27th of November, on the "Psychology of Attention." It was appreciated by all, and gave rise to a very pleasant talk afterwards.—On December 4th, Dr. Caignile lectured on "Health and Physical Education of Children." His address was principally on the subject of infant feeding, dress, and sanitary conditions of the nursery; he also drew the attention of mothers to the necessity of watching any apparently slight defect in the muscles of their children, as, if treated at an early stage, it could often be entirely remedied by various exercises, which would be given for the express purpose of developing the weak muscles.

ILKLEY.—On November 14th, a Natural History Exhibition was held in St. Margaret's Hall. Thirty members sent in good collections of seeds, pressed leaves, brush drawings, snails, twigs, etc. The day was very wet, but the visitors who came expressed their surprise and delight. Next spring the Branch intends to do better work.

WEYBRIDGE.—The members and their friends met on Thursday evening, December 10th, in the Village Hall, to hear Mr. T. G. Rooper, H.M.I., read an interesting paper on "Obedience." The chair was taken by the Rev. W. B. Money, Rector of Weybridge and President of the Branch, who addressed the meeting on the objects of the Society, and a discussion followed, in which Mr. Newbolt, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Sadler took part.

RICHMOND AND KEW.—The first meeting of this branch was held on December 9th, at Queensberry House (by kind permission of Mrs. Grigg), when Mr. Rooper gave a most interesting address on the subject of "Obedience." Mr. Arthur Palliser was in the chair, and about 30 or 40 ladies and gentlemen were present. Mr. Rooper stated that obedience lay at the root of the problems of childhood, and the question that confronted both parents and teachers was whether they expected implicit or reasonable obedience. He spoke of the wonderful discipline of the army, obtained only by immediate and unhesitating obedience. But a child is not like an army, it is an individual with tendencies hereditary and acquired. Children must be taught to be prompt and willing, but care must be taken that children should not be blamed for lack of promptness in carrying out an order, when, as is often the case, the cause arises from some physical defect in the child. All those dealing with children should make judicious use of opportunity and give reasons where possible, and for this reason Mr. Rooper maintained children should be taught to play and to do everything with purposefulness. Children are ready to recognize the necessity of obeying when they perceive the principle that underlies the command. The secret of success in command is unselfishness, reasonableness, and consideration. A discussion followed, led by Dr. Shuttleworth.

FARNWORTH, NEAR BOLTON.—On December 11th, 1896, a meeting was held in the drawing room of Mrs. Harold Barnes, for the purpose of organizing the proposed Farnworth branch of the P.N.E.U. A president and secretary were elected and twelve ladies became members.

HIGHGATE.—The inaugural meeting of this branch was held on Monday evening, December 14th, at the School Hall, Fitzroy Lodge (by kind permission of Mrs. Marriott). The chair was taken by Dr. Allcock, and about 80 people were present. Miss Webb spoke upon the general principles and aims of the Union, and Mrs. Franklin upon the practical details of the work carried on. Some discussion followed, in which Dr. Greenwood, Mr. Blake Odgers, Q.C., and Mr. Glover took part. The proposal to form a branch of the Union in Highgate was carried, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Mrs. Franklin, Miss Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Marriott. Dr. Allcock has kindly consented to be President of the Branch and Mrs. Sharpe Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and a local committee has been formed.

THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life."

"KNOW THY OPPORTUNITY." *

BY REV. F. S. COLMAN, M.A.

IN the Temple of Apollo at Delphi, the national sanctuary of the Greeks, there were displayed, that all comers might see them, a number of maxims, utterances of the Seven Sages, which were practically the basis and were certainly the hidden strength of the oracles pronounced by the priestess of the god. One of these may be taken as a parent's motto, simply this, "Know thy Opportunity," a maxim as worthy of the Christian home as it was of the Delphic temple. If one has ever watched over a short period in a child's life one will have seen plainly enough the value of opportunity, the changes quickly working, the chances quickly passing. In a few months neglect will awake to find that habits have been formed while it slept, or patient care will gird itself to reap its quick reward; one will have seen how fully childhood is charged with power and how short a childhood is, marked how soon the mists of the later morning cloud the promise of the early day or the bright gleams become vigorous light and warmth. So the old maxim reasserts itself, "Know thy Opportunity."

To reveal the opportunity is the first object of this Educational Union, to teach its use is the second. It states for itself that it has arisen in response to a demand from

* A Paper read at the Inaugural Meeting of the Wimbledon Branch of the Parents' National Educational Union.